



## TRANSPORTATION NEWSLETTER

### The Importance of Staying Seated on the School Bus

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School Bus seats are built to protect passengers through a design called "compartmentalization". Some of the standards that are applied to this design are:

- High seat backs
- Seats constructed with energy absorbing material
- Seat placement to form "compartments"
- Seats anchored securely

When students are sitting square on the seat, facing forward, these safety features work together to help keep our students safe. Reminding your students to sit properly on the school bus seat is very important and can help protect them in the event of an accident.



Please see the links for additional information from the Canada Safety Council and Transport Canada.

Canada Safety Council: <https://canadasafetycouncil.org/is-there-a-need-for-seat-belts-on-school-buses/>

Transport Canada: <https://tc.canada.ca/en/road-transportation/school-bus-safety/safety-standards-school-buses>

## **Inclement Weather**

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School buses do not typically run in the mornings when the temperature is at or lower than -40 degrees Celsius without wind chill. When the weather is severe, or road conditions are hazardous, certain bus routes may be cancelled. However, this does not necessarily mean schools are closed. Once student transportation has begun, a school will not close until regular dismissal time.

In the event that morning transportation needs to be cancelled due to weather conditions, announcements will be made through the local radio stations, updated on the Bus Status App, and communicated to RVS families through the SMS service if you have opted in (this service is currently not available for CSSD families). Afternoon service cancellations will be re-evaluated through the morning and then updated on the Bus Status App by noon, should a route be cancelled.

Bus contractors update delays over 10 minutes on the Bus Status App.

More information is available on our [Inclement Weather](#) page.

It is important NOT to leave your child at the bus stop in severe weather for any period of time.

### **Cold Weather Tips:**

- Stay with your child at the bus stop until they have been picked up or have a back-up plan in place.
- Dress your child in warm, insulating layers close to their body, with wind and waterproof layers on the outside. Keep their head covered.
- Cover exposed areas such as fingers, cheeks, ears, and nose. Consider sending your child with spare gloves and a hat just in case!

## **Ongoing Driver Shortage**

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School bus contractors in Rocky View School Division, and across the province, are currently experiencing driver shortages and a high rate of driver absenteeism due to circumstances beyond their control, which affects reliable bus service. This situation fluctuates daily, so please be sure to monitor the BUs Status App which will provide information regarding late bus routes.

Contractors are working hard to keep all bus routes running while managing the changing scenarios. We are aware that route delays and inconsistent schedules are frustrating for parents and students alike. Several bus drivers are having to run second routes with significant delays just to ensure that students get to school at all. Our goal is to ensure the late bus information is accurate and posted with as much advance notice for parents as possible.

We cannot foresee what the next days and weeks will look like, but you can be assured that everyone is doing the best they can.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate these driver shortages.

## **Upcoming School Closures**

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### Rocky View Schools:

Last day of Classes: December 20th

Classes Resume: January 6th

### Catholic Schools:

Professional Growth Day (No Classes): December 20th

Christmas Break Starts: December 21st

Classes Resume: January 6th

Happy Holidays from the Transportation Team!

The Education Centre and Transportation Counter will be closed for the holidays from December 23rd - December 29th and also closed January 1st. We hope you enjoy a restful break, and we will see you in the new year!

For more information  
please visit our [website](#)

*Rocky View Schools*  
*Transportation Department*